

Town of Hopkinton, NH

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Recycling Committee Minutes - 05/13/2008

Hopkinton/Webster Recycling Committee Meeting Minutes May 13, 2008

Present: Debbie Augustine, chair; Sally Embley, Mary Leadbeater, Bob La Pree, and Katherine Mitchell. Selectman Chris Lawless sat in as an ex officio (nonvoting) member. The meeting was called to order at 6:45 when a quorum of voting members was present. Sally Embley volunteered to take minutes.

Minutes: The minutes from April 8 were reviewed, and some grammatical changes were recommended to clarify certain points. Mary agreed to incorporate the suggested changes, and Debbie will forward the amended version to the Town Offices.

Proposed Pilot for Satellite Drop-off Center: At the May 1 meeting of the Hopkinton/Webster Landfill Committee, Debbie and Katherine presented the Recycling Committee's plan to offer a satellite drop-off center on Public Works Road in Contoocook. The Hopkinton BOS had been receptive to a 12-week trial during Saturdays in the summer, but the Landfill Committee was skeptical. They wanted to know more about the site (how it would be staffed and secured) and exactly how much it would cost. (George Dockham had agreed to provide dumpsters free for one month only.) Debbie pointed out that revenues and expenses could not be estimated until the project was underway, but Chairman Peter Russell said the Landfill Committee could not approve the project unless they were presented with a detailed plan.

The site hasn't been finalized because Herm Blanchette has been out sick. Staffing has not been determined because volunteers must be recruited. It will be difficult to estimate costs because there is no way to judge demand. (How many times will the dumpsters need to be "pulled" and still break even based on the recyclables' market value?) Katherine agreed to contact Dockham to get his terms "in writing," but she noted that Dockham needs all his bins back for the Hopkinton Fair. A 12-week summer pilot would have to start June 7. Katherine recommended that the pilot be postponed and that the Committee's full efforts be put into PayAs You Throw.

Plans to Promote PAYT: The group agreed that an updated PAYT proposal should be presented to the new Hopkinton Select Board as soon as possible, preferably in June. (Webster will not be included in the PAYT campaign.). In September/October, an all-out effort will be made to enlist public support for a PAYT warrant article at the 2009 Town Meeting. Success stories from PAYT towns should be featured prominently, the goal being to increase Hopkinton's recycling rate to 40%

June 3 Recycling Workshops: Debbie discussed the three technical assistance visits for town offices, schools and a town business being offered by Mary Ann Remolador of the Northeast Recycling Council (NERC). The town office visit for both towns will be held at 9:00 a.m. at the Hopkinton Town Hall.

Katherine arranged for Provan and Lorber to receive the business technical assistance visit, but needs to know what time the visit will be. Debbie is still waiting to learn whether the schools will participate as Superintendent Blake hasn't responded yet. She will contact him again. If the schools don't work out, she will contact Mike Sintros to see if he is still interested in a visit for the St. Methodios camp. Mary Ann will also present a recycling workshop that evening at 7 p.m. at the Slusser Center for the general public. Help will be needed with set-up, etc.

Proposed Environmental Center at the Transfer Station: Steve Clough has proposed building a 24' x 40' shed with three bays and an office area that would be right inside the gate to the transfer station. The building would serve as an information and education center and also promote recycling by housing a swap shop for good used furniture, tools, appliances, clothes, etc. Salvaged construction materials (doors,

windows) might also be available there. Committee members supported the concept but questioned whether a separate building, far removed from the transfer sheds, was appropriate. A smaller shed, located near the current C&D area, would be more convenient and probably not require the staff envisioned in Steve's proposal. (Bob La Pree circulated color photos, showing where the structure might be situated.) The group also doubted whether the kiosk and computers would be used much since most of that information is available on the town's web site or through Craigslist or Freecycle. Debbie asked members to e-mail individual comments to her and she would relay them to Steve and Bob Veloski.

Other Business: Hopkinton School Superintendent Brian Blake has asked that he be sent a copy of our monthly agenda so a student or staff member may attend our meeting. Katherine suggested that Mr. Blake be invited to speak to our group about recycling efforts in the school district.

The committee now has two vacancies for Hopkinton representatives, and the group discussed possible recruits from other environmental groups. Mary offered to announce our interest in new members when she attended the Greener Hopkinton meeting the following evening..

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sally Embley